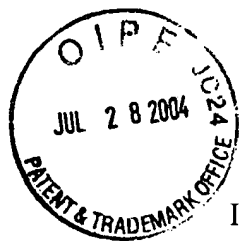


ZFW
AF



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of:

Uwe HEITMANN et al.

Appl. No: 10/058,200

Confirmation No: 3906

Filed: January 29, 2002

For: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT
FOR PRODUCING COMPOUND
FILTERS

Art Unit: 3721

Examiner: Eugene Lee Kim

Atty. Docket No: 41653-188397

Customer No:

26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

This is an appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the decision of the Examiner in the Office Action mailed November 28, 2003. A Notice of Appeal was filed on April 28, 2004.

Applicants petition for a one month extension of time. A check for \$440.00 is attached. If no check is attached or the submitted fee is deficient, please charge Deposit Account No. 22-0261. This Appeal Brief is being submitted in triplicate.

07/29/2004 CNGUYEN 00000009 10058200

01 FC:1402
02 FC:1251

330.00 OP
110.00 OP

(1) REAL PARTY OF INTEREST

The Assignee of this application, and thus the real party of interest in this appeal, is Hauni Maschinenbau AG of Hamburg, Germany.

(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

(3) STATUS OF CLAIMS

The claims involved in this appeal are set forth in the Appendix to this Brief.

Claims 67-117 have been finally rejected and are being appealed.

Claims 1-66 have been canceled.

Claims 67-117 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claims 90-96, 98-101, 104-109, 112, 113, 115-117 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103.

Claims 67-89, 97, 102, 103, 110, 111 and 114 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is reversed.

(4) STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

There are no un-entered amendments.

(5) SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method and apparatus for producing compound filters for the tobacco industry. Figure 11 shows a schematic view from above a filter-

manufacturing machine. (paragraph 83). A single main cylinder 100 transports tubes of the compound filters through various processing steps in a clockwise direction. (paragraph 84). Filter elements are cut into shorter segments at 101 and supplied to cylinder 100. (paragraph 85). A first storage container and a second storage container are provided for a first granulate 110 and a second granulate 111, which are provided to corresponding conveying elements at a granulate transfer station 112 for filling corresponding bores in pushers to supply granulate to the tubes. (paragraph 86). Before the main cylinder 100 has completed half of a rotation, one side of a compound filter with twice a unit length is filled with granulate. This half-filled compound filter is moved with a transfer cylinder 109 to a rotating cylinder 108 where it is rotated and supplied once more to the main cylinder 100. (paragraph 86). The compound filter is completely filled through the rest of the rotation, and removed at cylinder 104, 109 and 117. (paragraph 87).

Cross section views of the individual processing stations are shown in Figs. 1-9, in which granulate 27, 26 and filter elements 19, 20 are provided to tube 11 as the tube travels along cylinder 11.

(6) ISSUES

The following issues are presented to the Board:

Whether claims 67-117 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being based on a disclosure which is not enabling.

Whether claims 90-96, 98-101, 104-109, 112, 113, 115-117 are properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB Patent Document No. 121693 ("Reynolds").

(7) GROUPING OF CLAIMS

The claims are grouped as follows:

Group I - Claims 67-89, 97, 102, 103, 110, 111 and 114;

Group II - Claims 90 and 104-106;

Group III - Claims 91-95;

Group IV - Claim 96;

Group V - Claim 98;

Group VI - Claims 99 and 100;

Group VII - Claim 101;

Group VIII - Claims 107-109 and 112-117; and

Group IX - Claims 112 and 113.

It is respectfully submitted that the above groups of claims do not stand or fall together. Group I represents the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, but that are not rejected based on prior art. Groups II-IX are rejected based on prior art, but are independently patentable.

(8) ARGUMENTS

Group I - Claims 67-89, 97, 102, 103, 110, 111 and 114.

Claims 67-89, 97, 102, 103, 110, 111 and 114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being based on a disclosure which is not enabling.

The final Office Action dated November 28, 2003 states:

The specification (p. 18 bottom to p. 19 top) discloses that the preferred embodiment is one where several conveyors are provided which have at least one processing station which is critical or essential to the practice of the invention but not included in the claim(s) is not enabled by the disclosure...Applicant is claiming only one conveyor which appears to be missing the essential or critical aspects of the invention.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the specification does **not** state that several conveyors are necessary. The specification states that a single conveyor is preferred, although a plurality of conveyors can be provided. Page 18 in paragraph 40 of the specification states: "It is advantageous if the at least one conveying element is **at least one** continuously circulating conveyor, which transports the filter tubes cross-axially. An extremely compact apparatus can be realized if the at least one processing station is advantageously arranged on **a single conveyor**." Thus, the specification supports claims directed to a single conveyor and a plurality of conveyors. Fig. 11 shows a single conveyor 100 with multiple processing stations (at 105, 109, 105).

Reversal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Group II - Claims 90 and 104-106.

Claims 90 and 104-106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds.

Reynolds is directed to an apparatus for producing filter tips. Referring to Fig. 1 of Reynolds, a tubular elements 1 are supplied from hopper 12 to conveyor 16. (Reynolds, page 2, lines 127-130). Conveyor 16 transports the tubular elements 1 to stop 20 where the element 1 is cut by knife 22 and transferred onto a drum 24. (Reynolds, page 2, line 130 to page 3, line 5). Drum 24 transfers the element 1 to drum 26 and then to drum 28. (Reynolds, page 3, lines 30-54). Drum 28 supplies the elements to a hopper 30 to be provided with granules, and then transfers the elements to drum 38. (Reynolds, page 3, line 44-85). Drum 38 provides the elements 1 with caps. (Reynolds, page 3, lines 105-108). The elements 1 are then removed from the drum 38 at drum 70. (Reynolds, page 4, lines 46-50).

Claims 90 and 104 are independent claims that each recite that a **plurality of processing stations** are supplied by a **single conveyor**.

On page 3, the Office Action dated November 28, 2003 argues that **conveyor 16** and **conveyor 28** of Reynolds each satisfies this limitation by individually supplying multiple processing stations.

Concerning **conveyor 16** of Reynolds, the Action dated November 28, 2003 argues that the stopping mechanism 20 and cutting mechanism 22 constitute separate processing stations, and as such, a single conveyor 16 supplies a plurality of processing stations 20, 22. It is respectfully submitted that this is an improperly broad interpretation of the plain meaning of the term "processing station." If anything, the stopping and

cutting operation would be a single processing station. In addition, it is an especially unreasonably broad interpretation of the term when read in the context of the specification, which states in paragraph [0042]: "It should be understood herein that a processing station for the purpose of this invention is a station where filtering material is metered out, or a cutting operation takes place, or a filtering material is inserted into the filter tube and/or the like." A stopping station would not satisfy this limitation.

Concerning **conveyor 28** of Reynolds, Fig. 1 of Reynolds shows that two conveyors 28, 38 supply tubes to the filler station 30 and cap inserting stations 38a. Conveyor 28 only supplies the filler station 30, and then transports the tubes to conveyor 38 for supplying the capping station 38a. **Conveyor 28 and conveyor 30 are separate conveyors, each supplying a single station.** (see arrows on the conveyors 28, 30) As such, these conveyors and stations do not satisfy the claim limitation.

Referring to the proposed rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner states in the Office Action dated November 28, 2003, "the examiner notes that it is well known in the art to use one conveying mechanism for a plurality of processing stations to simplify the manufacturing operation by eliminating the use of multiple conveyors." The Federal Circuit has stated: "there is no basis for concluding that an invention would have been obvious solely because it is a combination of elements that were known in the art at the time of the invention." See *Fromsen v. Advanite Offset Plate, Inc.* 225 USPQ 26, 31 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Instead, the relevant inquiry is whether there is a reason, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references, and that would also suggest a reasonable likelihood of success. See, e.g., *In re Dow Chem. Co.* 5 USPQ2d. 1529, 1531-32 (Fed. Cir. 1988). The Examiner has failed

to supply a reason, suggestion, or motivation in the prior art that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Reynolds in the manner proposed that would also suggest a reasonable likelihood of success. As such, the Examiner has failed to set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

As a result, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of claims 90 and 104 be reversed. Claims 105 and 106 depend from claim 104 and are patentable as depending from an allowable claim.

Group III - Claims 91-95.

Claims 91-95 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds.

Claims 91-95 depend from claim 90. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 90 is allowable over Reynolds. As such, claims 91-95 are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Claims 91-95 also recite additional features that distinguish over Reynolds. Claim 91 recites that one of the processing stations comprises a rotating device for rotating filter tubes. Claim 92 recites that the conveyor comprises a continuously circulating conveyor in which the filter tubes are conveyed cross-axially. Claim 93 recites that the processing station comprises at least one filtering material feeding station. Claim 94 recites that the processing station comprises at least one filtering material insertion station. Claim 95 recites that the processing station comprises at least one removal station.

As noted above in the rejection of Group II, the Examiner proposes two separate conveyors that satisfy the "one conveyor/plurality of processing stations" limitation of independent claims 90 and 104.

According to the Examiner, conveyor 16 supplies a stopping mechanism 20 and a cutting mechanism 22. Conveyor 16 does not supply or satisfy any of the features recited by claims 91-95. As such, this conveyor/processing stations combination, even if it is considered to satisfy the features of claim 90, does not render claims 91-95 unpatentable.

According to the Examiner, conveyor 28 supplies tubes to filler station 30 and cap inserting station 38a. As noted above, two separate conveyors (conveyor 28 and 38) supply tubes to the filler station 30 and cap inserting station 38a.

As such, the rejection of claims 90-95 should be reversed.

Group IV - Claim 96.

Claim 96 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds.

Claim 96 depends from claim 90. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 90 is allowable over Reynolds. As such, claim 96 is allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Claim 96 also recites additional features that distinguish over Reynolds. Claim 96 recites that one of the processing stations is a heating station.

As noted above in the rejection of Group II, the Examiner proposes two separate conveyors that satisfy the "one conveyor/plurality of processing stations" limitation of independent claims 90 and 104.

According to the Examiner, **conveyor 16** supplies a stopping mechanism 20 and a cutting mechanism 22. Conveyor 16 does not supply a heating station.

According to the Examiner, **conveyor 28** supplies tubes to filler station 30 and cap inserting station 38a. Conveyor 28 does not supply a heating station.

As such, the rejection of claim 96 should be reversed.

Group V - Claim 98.

Claims 98 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds.

Claims 98 depends from claim 90. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 90 is allowable over Reynolds. As such, claim 98 is allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Claim 98 also recites additional features that distinguish over Reynolds. Claim 98 depends directly from claim 93 and recites that the at least one filtering material feeding station comprises at least one sliding element provided with bores.

As noted above in the rejection of Group II, the Examiner proposes two separate conveyors that satisfy the "one conveyor/plurality of processing stations" limitation of independent claims 90 and 104.

According to the Examiner, **conveyor 16** supplies tubes a stopping mechanism 20 and a cutting mechanism 22. Conveyor 16 does not supply at least one filtering material feeding station.

According to the Examiner, conveyor 28 supplies tubes to filler station 30 and cap inserting station 38a. Conveyor 28 does not supply at least one filtering material station that includes at least one sliding element.

As such, the rejection of claim 98 should be reversed.

Group VI - Claims 99 and 100.

Claims 99 and 100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds.

Claims 99 and 100 depend from claim 90. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 90 is allowable over Reynolds. As such, claims 99 and 100 are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Claims 99 and 100 also recite additional features that distinguish over Reynolds. Claim 99 depends directly from claim 93 and recites that the at least one filtering material station comprises at least one lever element provided with the bores. Claim 100 depends directly from claim 99 and recites that the at least one filtering material insertion station comprises at least one first transfer means for inserting filtering material into the filter tubes.

As noted above in the rejection of Group II, the Examiner proposes two separate conveyors that satisfy the "one conveyor/plurality of processing stations" limitation of independent claims 90 and 104.

According to the Examiner, conveyor 16 supplies tubes a stopping mechanism 20 and a cutting mechanism 22. Conveyor 16 does not supply a filtering material feeding

station, particularly one that includes a lever element or at least one first transfer means for inserting filtering material into the filter tubes.

According to the Examiner, **conveyor 28** supplies tubes to filler station 30 and cap inserting station 38a. Conveyor 28 does not supply filtering material feeding station that includes a lever element or at least one first transfer means for inserting filtering material into the filter tubes.

As such, the rejection of claims 99 and 100 should be reversed.

Group VII - Claim 101

Claim 101 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds.

Claim 101 depends from claim 90. Claim 101 also depends from claim 100. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 90 and 100 are each allowable over Reynolds. As such, claim 101 is allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Claim 101 also recites additional features that distinguish over Reynolds. Claim 101 recites that the at least one filtering material station includes at least one second transfer means that functions from the opposite end of the filter tube as a counter stop to the at least one first transfer means.

As noted above in the rejection of Group II, the Examiner proposes two separate conveyors that satisfy the "one conveyor/plurality of processing stations" limitation of independent claims 90 and 104.

According to the Examiner, **conveyor 16** supplies tubes a stopping mechanism 20 and a cutting mechanism 22. Conveyor 16 does not supply a filtering material insertion

station having at least one second transfer means that functions from the opposite end of the filter tube as a counter stop to the at least one first transfer means.

According to the Examiner, **conveyor 28** supplies tubes to filler station 30 and cap inserting station 38a. Conveyor 28 does not supply a filtering material insertion station having at least one second transfer means that functions from the opposite end of the filter tube as a counter stop to the at least one first transfer means.

As such, the rejection of claim 101 should be reversed.

Group VIII - Claims 107-109 and 115-117.

Claims 107-109 and 115-117 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds.

Claims 107 and 115 are independent claims that recites a single conveyor that supplies tubes to a plurality of processing stations, as recited in claims 90 and 104. Claim 107 further recites that at least one of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step. Similarly, claim 115 further recites that at least one processing station for inserting at least two portions of filtering materials into at least one filter tube during one operational step.

As noted above in the rejection of Group II, the Examiner proposes two separate conveyors that satisfy the "one conveyor/plurality of processing stations" limitation of independent claims 107 and 115.

According to the Examiner, conveyor 16 supplies tubes a stopping mechanism 20 and a cutting mechanism 22. Conveyor 16 does not supply a processing station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step.

According to the Examiner, conveyor 28 supplies tubes to filler station 30 and cap inserting station 38a. Conveyor 28 does not supply a processing station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step.

As such, the rejection of claims 107 and 115 should be reversed. Claims 108 and 109 depend from claim 107, and claims 116 and 117 depend from claim 115. As such, claims 108, 109, 116 and 117 are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Group IX - Claims 112 and 113.

Claims 112 and 113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reynolds.

Claim 112 and 113 depend from claim 107. As noted above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 107 is allowable over Reynolds. As such, claims 112 and 113 are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Claims 112 and 113 also recites additional features that distinguish over Reynolds. Claim 112 recites that at least one of the processing stations includes a filtering material feeding station comprising at least one of (a) at least one pusher element provided with bores and (b) at least one lever element provided with bores. Claim 113 recites that the filter tube has one end and said means for inserting comprises

at least a first transfer means for inserting the at least two portions of the filtering materials in a single operational step into the one end of the filter tube.

As noted above in the rejection of Group II, the Examiner proposes two separate conveyors that satisfy the "one conveyor/plurality of processing stations" limitation of independent claim 107.

According to the Examiner, conveyor 16 supplies tubes a stopping mechanism 20 and a cutting mechanism 22. Conveyor 16 does not supply a processing station satisfying the limitations of claim 112 or 113.

According to the Examiner, conveyor 28 supplies tubes to filler station 30 and cap inserting station 38a. Conveyor 28 does not supply a processing station satisfying the limitations of claim 112 or 113.

As such, the rejection of claim 112 and 113 should be reversed.

(9) CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that each of the pending claims is patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of these claims should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

07/28/04



Chad C. Anderson
Registration No. 44,505
VENABLE
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998
Telephone: (202) 344-8257
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

APPENDIX

Claims 1-66 (canceled).

Claim 67. An arrangement for manufacturing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter tube feeding element;

at least one processing station one of which comprises a rotating device for rotating filter tubes; and

at least one conveyor into which filter tubes are deposited from the feeding element for supplying the filter tubes to the at least one processing station,

wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material feeding station, the at least one filtering material feeding station comprising two off-center arranged rotating discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being arranged so as to be aligned at one location.

Claim 68. The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein the filter tubes are pre-manufactured wrapping material sections formed into tubes and containing a filter element arranged in a central region of each respective section.

Claim 69. The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a continuously circulating conveyor in which the filter tubes are conveyed cross-axially.

Claim 70. The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a single conveyor and the at least one processing station is arranged on the single conveyor.

Claim 71. The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a plurality of conveyors and at least one of the processing stations is assigned to some of the conveyors and maximally one processing station is assigned to other conveyors.

Claim 72. The arrangement according to claim 71, wherein maximally one processing station is assigned to each conveyor.

Claim 73. The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material insertion station.

Claim 74. The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one removal station.

Claim 75. The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one heating station.

Claim 76. The arrangement according to claim 73, wherein the at least one filtering material insertion station comprises at least one first transfer means for inserting filtering material into the filter tubes.

Claim 77. The arrangement according to claim 76, wherein the at least one filtering material insertion station includes at least one second transfer means that functions from the opposite end of the filter tube as a counter stop to the at least one first transfer means.

Claim 78. The arrangement according to claim 67, further including means for axially aligning the at least one filter tube with at least one of the bores.

Claim 79. The arrangement according to claim 78, wherein the axial aligning means is for aligning at least two of the bores with the filter tube.

Claim 80. An apparatus for producing compound filters for products in the tobacco-producing industry, comprising:

a filter-tube feeding element;

at least one conveyor into which filter tubes are insertable from the feeding element; and

at least one processing station for being supplied with the filter tubes by the at least one conveyor, wherein at least one of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step,

wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a filtering material feeding station that includes two rotating and eccentrically arranged discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being positioned so that they are aligned at one location.

Claim 81. The apparatus according to claim 80, including means for arranging at least one filter tube so that it is axially aligned with at least two bores.

Claim 82. The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein one of the processing stations comprises a rotating mechanism for rotating the filter tubes.

Claim 83. The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises at least one continuously circulating conveyor which conveys the filter tubes cross-axially.

Claim 84. The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a single conveyor and at least one of the processing stations is arranged on the single conveyor.

Claim 85. The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a plurality of conveyors and at least one processing station is associated with each of the conveyors.

Claim 86. The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein a maximum of one processing station is associated with each of the conveyors.

Claim 87. The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises multiple conveyors, one of the conveyors being associated with at least one processing station and at least one of the conveyors being associated with only one of the processing stations.

Claim 88. The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the filter tube has one end and said means for inserting comprises at least a first transfer means for inserting the at least two portions of the filtering materials in a single operational step into the one end of the filter tube.

Claim 89. The apparatus according to claim 88, wherein the filter tube has another end opposite the one end, and the first transfer means comprises at least one first plunger and the filtering material insertion station includes at least one second transfer means for providing at the opposite end of the filter tube a counter support to the at least one first plunger.

Claim 90. An arrangement for manufacturing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

- a filter tube feeding element;
- a plurality of processing stations; and
- a single conveyor into which filter tubes are deposited from the feeding element for supplying the filter tubes to the processing stations.

Claim 91. The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein one of the processing stations comprises a rotating device for rotating filter tubes.

Claim 92. The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein the conveyor comprises a continuously circulating conveyor in which the filter tubes are conveyed cross-axially.

Claim 93. The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material feeding station.

Claim 94. The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material insertion station.

Claim 95. The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one removal station.

Claim 96. The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one heating station.

Claim 97. The arrangement according to claim 93, wherein the at least one filtering material feeding station comprises two off-center arranged rotating discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being arranged so as to be aligned at one location.

Claim 98. The arrangement according to claim 93, wherein the at least one filtering material feeding station comprises at least one sliding element provided with bores.

Claim 99. The arrangement according to claim 93, wherein the at least one filtering material feeding station comprises at least one lever element provided with bores.

Claim 100. The arrangement according to claim 99, wherein the at least one filtering material insertion station comprises at least one first transfer means for inserting filtering material into the filter tubes.

Claim 101. The arrangement according to claim 100, wherein the at least one filtering material insertion station includes at least one second transfer means that

functions from the opposite end of the filter tube as a counter stop to the at least one first transfer means.

Claim 102. The arrangement according to claim 97, further including means for axially aligning the at least one filter tube with at least one of the bores.

Claim 103. The arrangement according to claim 102, wherein the axial aligning means is for aligning at least two of the bores with the filter tube.

Claim 104. A compound filter-manufacturing system for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

- a filter tube feeding device;

- a single conveyor for conveying filter tubes supplied by the filter tube feeding device along a predetermined movement path; and

- a plurality of processing stations associated with the conveyor.

Claim 105. The compound filter-manufacturing system according to claim 104, further comprising an arrangement for rotating the filter tubes disposed on the conveyor.

Claim 106. The compound filter-manufacturing system according to claim 104, wherein the conveyor comprises a continuously circulating conveyor for conveying the filter tubes cross-axially.

Claim 107. An apparatus for producing compound filters for products in the tobacco-producing industry, comprising:

- a filter-tube feeding element;

- a single conveyor into which filter tubes are insertable from the feeding element; and

- a plurality of processing stations for being supplied with the filter tubes by the conveyor, wherein at least one of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step.

Claim 108. The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein one of the processing stations comprises a rotating mechanism for rotating the filter tubes.

Claim 109. The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein the conveyor is a continuously circulating conveyor which conveys the filter tubes cross-axially.

Claim 110. The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a filtering material feeding station that includes two rotating and eccentrically arranged discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being positioned so that they are aligned at one location.

Claim 111. The apparatus according to claim 110, including means for arranging at least one filter tube so that it is axially aligned with at least two bores.

Claim 112. The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein at least one of the processing stations includes a filtering material feeding station comprising at least one of (a) at least one pusher element provided with bores and (b) at least one lever element provided with bores.

Claim 113. The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein the filter tube has one end and said means for inserting comprises at least a first transfer means for inserting the at least two portions of the filtering materials in a single operational step into the one end of the filter tube.

Claim 114. The apparatus according to claim 111, wherein the filter tube has another end opposite the one end, and the first transfer means comprises at least one first plunger and the filtering material insertion station includes at least one second transfer means for providing at the opposite end of the filter tube a counter support to the at least one first plunger.

Claim 115. A compound filter manufacturing system for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter-tube feeding apparatus;

a single conveyor for conveying filter tubes supplied by the filter-tube feeding apparatus along a predetermined movement path; and

a plurality of processing stations receiving filter tubes from the conveyor, said processing stations including at least one processing station for inserting at least two portions of filtering materials into at least one filter tube during one operational step.

Claim 116. The filter-manufacturing system according to claim 115, wherein one of the processing stations comprises a rotating device for rotating the filter tubes.

Claim 117. The filter-manufacturing system according to claim 115, wherein the conveyor is a continuously circulating conveyor for conveying the filter tubes cross-axially.